

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13 and continuing on page 14 with the following:

- Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5 but showing another embodiment of this invention and Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken along a line VII - VII in Fig. 6. According to this embodiment, the topsheet 2 of the napkin 1 is formed with a plurality of tubular passages 51 extending through the topsheet 2 from its upper surface to its lower surface. Each of the tubular passages 51 has an upper opening 52, a lower opening 53 and a tube wall 54 extending between these two openings 52, 53. The upper and lower openings 52, 53 preferably have a diaper of 0.1 ~ 5 mm, more preferably 1.5 ~ 5 mm on the upper and lower surfaces of the topsheet 2, respectively, so that a total area of the upper openings 52 may preferably occupy 1 ~ 70 %, more preferably 5 ~ 50 % of the upper surface of the topsheet 2. The tube wall 54 is tapered downward at an angle of 0 ~ 70 % with respect to the vertical. Within such range of tapering degree, the lower opening 53 is preferably dimensioned to be smaller than the upper opening 52. The lower opening 53 immediately overlies the upper surface of the absorbent core 4. -

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

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B2* 1. (Amended) A disposable body fluid absorbent wearing article comprising:
a liquid-pervious topsheet;
a liquid-impervious backsheet; and
a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-
impervious backsheet, said liquid-pervious topsheet comprising:
a plurality of plastic film layer sections each having upper and lower surfaces and
a thickness of from about 0.001 to about 0.05 mm;
openings defined between respective pairs of adjacent ones of said plastic film
layer sections; and

a first fibrous layer bonded to the lower surfaces of said plastic film layer sections and immediately underlying said openings,

said liquid-pervious topsheet having a Klemm's water absorbency lower than 10 mm, each of said openings having a width of from about 0.05 to about 1 mm so that a total open area thereof occupies from about 3 to about 40 % of a surface area of said topsheet,

edges of said plastic film layer sections defining said openings being partially fibrillated so as to form rising portions having a maximum height of 1.5 mm, said first fibrous layer having component fiber having a fineness of from about 0.5 to about 20 dtex and a basis weight of from about 5 to about 60 g/m²,

said liquid-absorbent core having a second fibrous layer being closely contiguous to a lower surface of said first fibrous layer and a third fibrous layer being closely contiguous to a lower surface of said second fibrous layer, said second fibrous layer having a Klemm's water absorbency lower than 35 mm but higher than a Klemm's water absorbency of said liquid-pervious topsheet by 15 mm or more and said third fibrous layer having a Klemm's water absorbency of at least 35 mm but higher than said Klemm's water absorbency of said second fibrous layer by 15 mm or more.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The article according to Claim 1, wherein each of said openings has a width of from about 0.05 to about 1 mm and a length corresponding to at least 1.5 times said width.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The article according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of tubular passages that extend through said liquid-pervious topsheet from an upper surface thereof to its lower surface, said tubular passages having tube walls comprising upper and lower openings,

each of said upper and lower openings having a diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 mm.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The article according to Claim 1, wherein said liquid-pervious topsheet comprises a plurality of depressions extending from an upper surface thereof toward the lower surface thereof, said depressions terminating within an interior of said first fibrous layer, each of said depressions having an opening having a diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 mm. On the upper surface of the liquid-previous topsheet.

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) The article according to Claim 1, wherein one of said second and third fibrous layers comprises a plurality of fibrous layers and has a Klemm's water absorbency progressively increasing from an uppermost layer to a lowermost layer.

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The article according to Claim 1, wherein the edges of said plastic film layer sections are formed with a plurality of fibrillated portions so that said plastic film layer sections are contiguous to the portions of said first fibrous layer exposed through said openings between respective pairs of adjacent said fibrillated portions.

Please amend Claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The article according to Claim 1, wherein said second fibrous layer contains hydrophilic fibers and has a basis weight of from about 20 to about 50 g/m² and a density lower than 0.05 g/cm³ but higher than the density of said first fibrous layer.